



U. S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Washington

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday, May 25, 2006	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Rice, First Assistant U.S. Attorney (509) 353-2767
--	---

“SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITY OF DRUGS SEIZED NEAR BORDER”

Spokane – James A. McDevitt, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, announced that a federal grand jury returned a six count indictment against Joseph A. Roberts, age 43, a resident of Sandpoint, Idaho.

On Tuesday, May 23, 2006, Joseph A. Roberts was indicted on three counts of importation and three counts of possession with intent to distribute approx. 170 pounds of “BC Bud” marijuana, 65 kilograms of methamphetamine, and 16 pounds of ecstasy. The street value of the methamphetamine alone is estimated at over \$1,000,000. Joseph A. Roberts was arrested by U.S. Border Patrol near Molsen, Washington, south of the Canadian border on May 7, 2006, and has been detained pending trial.

James A. McDevitt, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, said, “Our heightened border protection continues to uncover those who bring poison into our country.”

The methamphetamine counts carry a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years to a maximum of life imprisonment, up to a \$4,000,000 fine, up to life term of court supervision after release. The remaining counts each carry a maximum penalty of up to 20 years in prison, a \$1,000,000 fine and life supervision.

This investigation was conducted by the U.S. Border Patrol, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). This case is being prosecuted by Jared Kimball, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington.

An Indictment Contains Allegations That a Defendant Has Committed a Crime. Every Defendant Is Presumed Innocent until and Unless Proven Guilty Beyond a Reasonable Doubt.